SLS 16RS-575 ORIGINAL

2016 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

SPEECH/PATH/AUDIO. Directs the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to evaluate and report on licensing requirements and procedures that may need to be updated in current law.

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1 2 To authorize and direct the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to evaluate and report on licensing requirements and procedures that 3 may need to be updated in current law. 4 5 WHEREAS, hearing is one of the five senses that is a complex process of picking up sound and attaching meaning to it, which is critical to understanding the world around us; 6 7 and 8 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Health reports that two to three out of every one 9 thousand children born in the Untied States are born with a detectable level of hearing loss 10 in one or both ears, and approximately fifteen percent of American adults (thirty-seven 11 million five hundred thousand) aged eighteen and over report some trouble hearing; and WHEREAS, audiologists are healthcare professionals who provide patient-centered 12 13 care in the prevention, identification, diagnosis, and evidence-based treatment of hearing, 14 balance, and other auditory disorders for people of all ages; and WHEREAS, speech is the verbal means of communicating that includes articulation 15 16 (how speech sounds are made), voice (using vocal folds and breathing to produce sound) and fluency (the rhythm of speech); and 17 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Health reports that the prevalence of speech 18

SLS 16RS-575 **ORIGINAL** SCR NO. 5

sound disorders in young children is eight to nine percent, and between six and eight million
people in the United States have some form of language impairment; and
WHEREAS, speech-language pathologists, sometimes called speech therapists,
assess, diagnose, treat and help to prevent disorders related to speech, language, cognitive
communication, voice, swallowing and fluency; and
WHEREAS, as technology and training advances, the practice of audiology and
speech-language pathology are constantly evolving and it is imperative that the laws
governing this practice stay current and applicable to the discipline; and
WHEREAS, the statutes governing speech-language and audiology have not been
updated since 1995; and
WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana wants to ensure that the practices of
audiology and speech-language pathology are modernized as necessary to ensure the best
outcomes for our citizens, which may or may not require statutory changes.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
direct the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to
evaluate and report on licensing requirements and procedures that may need to be updated
in current law.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board shall submit a report of its findings
and recommendations, giving specific explanations of any proposed law changes, to the
legislature no later than October 1, 2016.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
executive director of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and
Audiology.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

**DIGEST** SCR 5 Original 2016 Regular Session

Claitor

Directs the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to evaluate and report on licensing requirements and procedures that may need to be updated in current law.